

PATENT APPLICATION5 **METHODS AND COMPOSITIONS FOR SCREENING ICRAC
MODULATORS**10 **WARNER LAMBERT COMPANY**15 **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The present invention relates to compositions and methods directed at screening or characterizing compounds that modulate the activity of calcium channels in cells preferably, calcium-release activated channels in cells. The compositions and methods can be used to produce inhibitors or activators of said channel, which 20 represent leads or candidate therapeutic drugs for treating various pathological conditions. More specifically, the method comprises (a) contacting a test compound and a calcium channel activator, preferably an Icrac activator with a population of calcium channel expressing cells, preferably Icrac expressing cells containing a reporter construct comprising a reporter gene under the control of a NFAT-inducible promoter, and (b) determining the activity of the test compound on the 25 calcium release-activated channel by assessing the reporter gene expression in said cells.